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AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

CEREBUS

45
DEC

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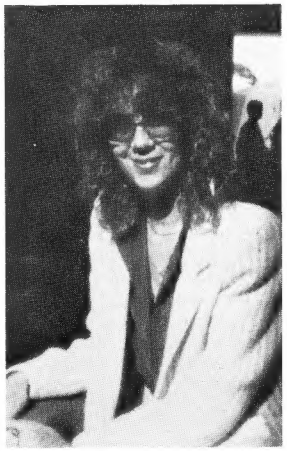
A Note from the Publisher



As you can see, Dave and I survived our tour and are back with another issue. We hadn't known what to expect when we left, but the whole tour turned out to be a really nice surprise. I would like to thank all the shop owners and the folks who worked with them for making our tour so easy for us. We really enjoyed the conversations we had with all our readers who showed up at the shops. I was constantly surprised at how much comics is growing, and the shops and readers along with it.

All of the shops were run in a very professional manner. We saw many different shops, some that looked closer to the traditional book-store, and some in malls. The whole idea of putting a comic shop in a mall was totally new to us, and I think to comics as a whole. From what we could see of it, the experiment seems to be working well. On the east coast, for example, Steve Geppi has several shops which he keeps supplied from his distribution system. His high-volume sales from his shop in Harbor Place are a good sign that selling comics to your average walk-in customer may have come of age.

Buddy Saunders in Dallas, Texas, told us about all the information he received about surrounding population, age group and how close schools are to the shop before moving to his Dallas location. These guys are truly businessmen. And then there was Chuck Rozanski in Denver, Colorado. Chuck is what one would call your not-so-average shop owner. He has a college business degree and runs his Three Mile-High shops like a well-oiled machine. Nothing is left to chance, and the sales in his shops show it. The result of all this new thinking?

It seems to me that everyone involved in comics, from the artists and writers, to the publishers and distributors on through to the shop owners and readers are going through a lot of growing pains right now. We are no longer the "Mom-and-Pop" medium that we mostly were when Cerebus began. I know that those changes are uncomfortable for some - but I feel that in the long run we will all benefit so much from it.

For those of you who feel that all these changes are making comics too "commercial" it would be a good idea to take note of this. Cerebus, Elfquest, and most of the alternative titles would not be doing as well as we are if it was not for the efforts made by these shops. Those high-volume sales include Cerebus, and I found that the shop owners and their staff feel pride in the fact that they make a lot of personal pitches for our books. They are out there showing our hard work to new readers.

With all these new companies and new titles finding more space in the newer, brighter shops, artists are having more of a choice in finding the right situation in which to do their books. It's only natural that the outcome of this will be more varied and better produced comic books. As the readership grows out of this new interest, a natural by-product is going to have to be better pay for the artists, and a greater attraction to comics by artists who had to leave the field and take their talents elsewhere for either reasons of artistic integrity or just plain economic survival.

Ever since I began working with Dave on Cerebus, I've heard so much about North American comic books being treated like third-rate entertainment. On the other hand, I heard a lot about the respect this artform has in Europe. On the tour I found myself wondering if perhaps that attitude was beginning to get a footing in the United States. Perhaps the time has come to take our comics out of the closets and into the living room. If we truly understand and appreciate this outstanding combination of words and art that is sometimes referred to as "funny books", then maybe it's time to show their magic to others. After all, we heard of a White House aide who buys comics at a comic shop near Washington, D.C.; and when Dave and I met TV producer Arne Sultan (of Too Close for Comfort) he had a copy of the Spirit right in his office. So, as you can see, the tour was actually a very good way for me to discover many of the changes that comics, as a whole, is going through.

I really am looking forward to next year's tour. I hope that I will have the chance to make some new acquaintances as well as renew those we made on this year's tour. Until that time -- I think that I will be more than happy to settle for seeing how our little grey friend likes being prime minister . . . . .

Deni

CEREBUS

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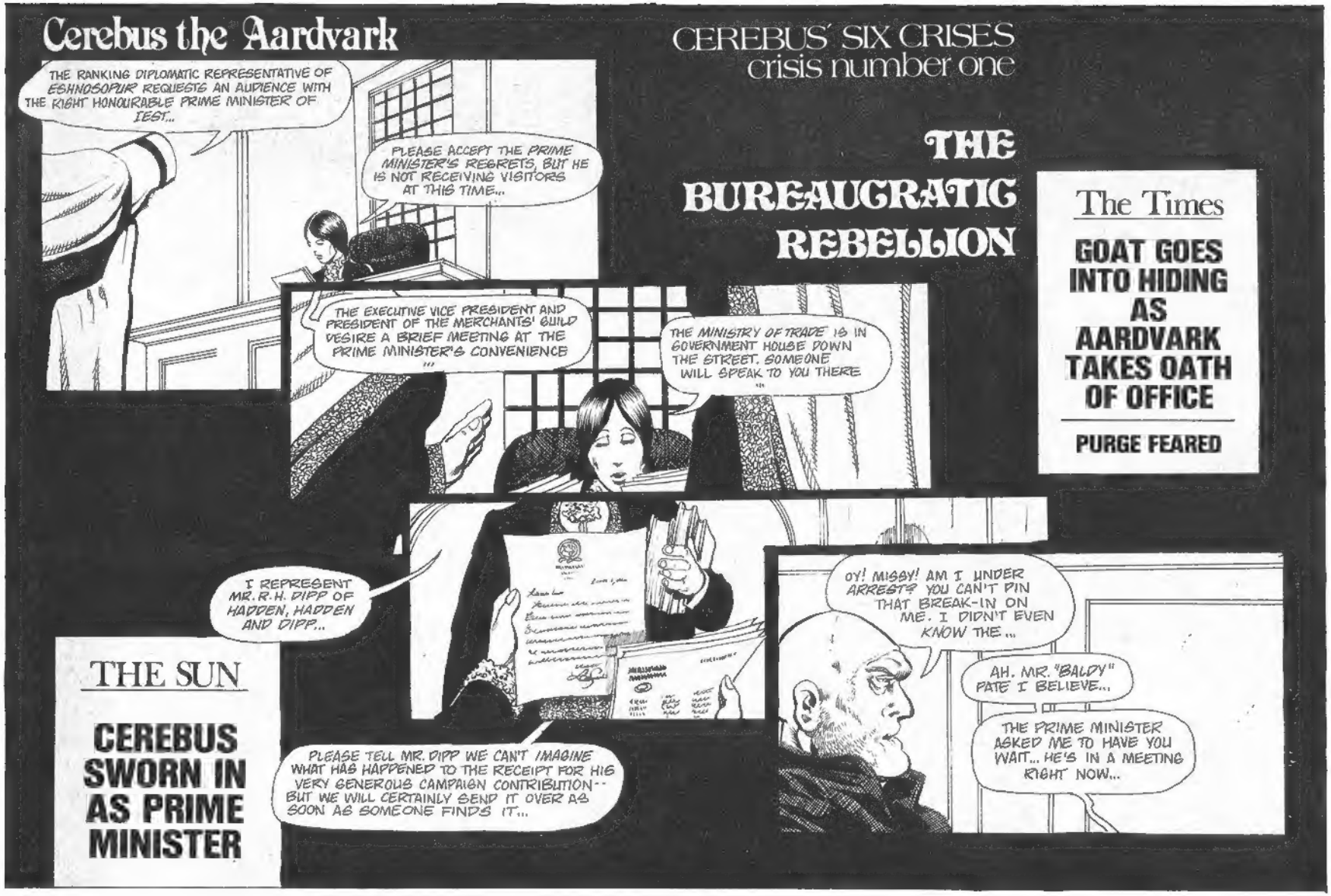
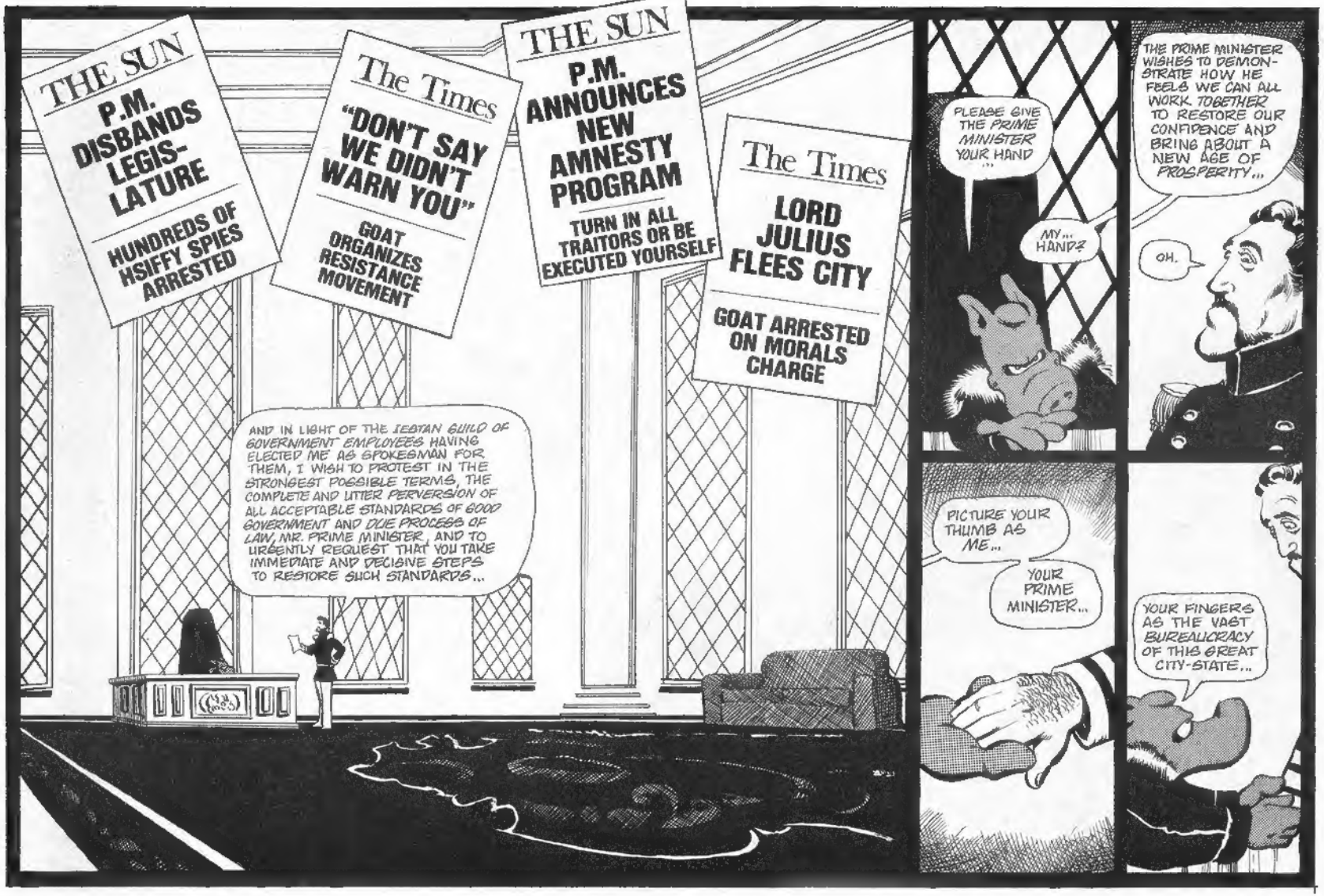

Cerebus the Aardvark
CEREBUS' SIX CRISES
crisis number one
THE BUREAUGRATIC REBELLION
THE RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE OF ESHNOSOPUR REQUESTS AN AUDIENCE WITH THE RIGHT HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER OF IEST...
PLEASE ACCEPT THE PRIME MINISTER'S REGRETS, BUT HE IS NOT RECEIVING VISITORS AT THIS TIME...
THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT OF THE MERCHANTS' GUILD DESIRE A BRIEF MEETING AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S CONVENIENCE
THE MINISTRY OF TRADE IS IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE DOWN THE STREET. SOMEONE WILL SPEAK TO YOU THERE
The Times
GOAT GOES INTO HIDING AS AARDVARK TAKES OATH OF OFFICE
PURGE FEARED
I REPRESENT MR. R.H. DIPP OF HADDEN, HADDEN AND DIPP...
PLEASE TELL MR. DIPP WE CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE RECEIPT FOR HIS VERY GENEROUS CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION-- BUT WE WILL CERTAINLY SEND IT OVER AS SOON AS SOMEONE FINDS IT...
OY! MIGGY! AM I UNDER ARREST? YOU CAN'T PIN THAT BREAK-IN ON ME. I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THE...
AH, MR. "BALDY" PATE I BELIEVE...
THE PRIME MINISTER ASKED ME TO HAVE YOU WAIT... HE'S IN A MEETING RIGHT NOW...
THE SUN
CEREBUS SWORN IN AS PRIME MINISTER


THE SUN
P.M. DISBANDS LEGIS-LATURE
HUNDREDS OF HSIFFY SPIES ARRESTED
The Times
"DON'T SAY WE DIDN'T WARN YOU"
GOAT ORGANIZES RESISTANCE MOVEMENT
THE SUN
P.M. ANNOUNCES NEW AMNESTY PROGRAM
TURN IN ALL TRAITORS OR BE EXECUTED YOURSELF
The Times
LORD JULIUS FLEES CITY
GOAT ARRESTED ON MORALS CHARGE
AND IN LIGHT OF THE IEBTAN GUILD OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES HAVING ELECTED ME AS SPOKESMAN FOR THEM, I WISH TO PROTEST IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS, THE COMPLETE AND UTTER PERVERSION OF ALL ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS OF GOOD GOVERNMENT AND DUE PROCESS OF LAW, MR. PRIME MINISTER, AND TO URGENTLY REQUEST THAT YOU TAKE IMMEDIATE AND DECISIVE STEPS TO RESTORE SUCH STANDARDS...
PLEASE GIVE THE PRIME MINISTER YOUR HAND ...
MY... HAND?
THE PRIME MINISTER WISHES TO DEMON-STRATE HOW HE FEELS WE CAN ALL WORK TOGETHER TO RESTORE OUR CONFIDENCE AND BRING ABOUT A NEW AGE OF PROSPERITY...
OH.
PICTURE YOUR THUMB AS ME...
YOUR PRIME MINISTER...
YOUR FINGERS AS THE VAST BUREAUCRACY OF THIS GREAT CITY-STATE...

WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER -- YOUR THUMB -- IS UNITED WITH THE BUREAUCRACY -- YOUR FINGERS -- GREAT WORKS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED. THE LIFTING OF SPIRITS THE GRASPING OF IDEAS
WE HOLD THE FUTURE BETWEEN US...
IF, HOWEVER, THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS BUREAUCRACY ARE NOT UNITED..
LIKE...
GAHH
SO!
WE HAVE WHAT?
DISUNITY
WHAT ELSE?
DISHARMONY
WHAT ELSE?
AGONY
WHAT ELSE?
OUCH!
WHAT ELSE?
BAD!
NO GOOD!
ANARCHY!
REVOLUTION!
COMPLETE BREAKDOWN OF MORALITY!
SO WHAT SHOULD YOUR FINGERS DO?
SWEAR COMPLETE AND EVER-LASTING LOYALTY TO MY THUMB!

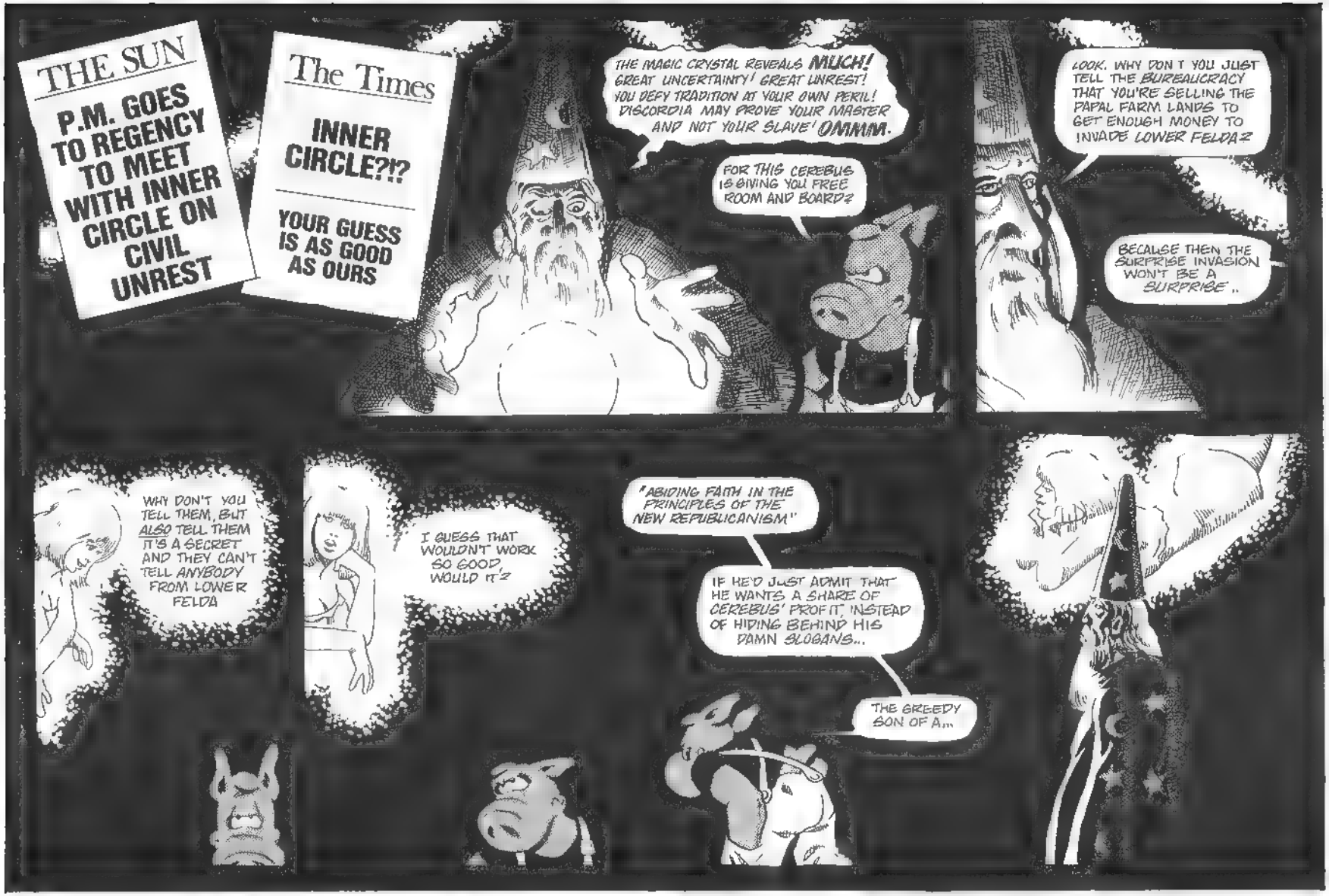
IF ANY MEMBER OF YOUR STAFF HAS TROUBLE UNDERSTANDING HOW IMPORTANT COOPERATION IS, FEEL FREE TO BORROW MY LITTLE DEMONSTRATION...
YES, MR. PRIME MINISTER...
AND IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE REMEMBERING HOW IT GOES, I HAVE ANOTHER ONE WHERE THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE ARMY ARE A PAIR OF PLIERS AND YOUR BIG TOE IS THE BUREAUCRACY
YES, MR. PRIME MINISTER
NEXT?
CEREBUS, OLD MATE!
OOOMPH!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BOW, BALDY
"OLD MATE"
S>COUGH< SORRY
SORRY, MR. PRIME MINISTER, SIR!
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN? LAST TIME I SAW YOU WAS...
SO-SORRY, MR PRIME MINISTER SIR
MUCH BETTER...
NOW!
HOW MUCH DO YOU SUPPOSE WE COULD'VE GOT FOR THE INAUGURATION JEWELS IN THE OLD DAYS?
COR! A HUNNERD THOUSAN' EASY!

MR. PRIME MINISTER, SIR...
SO, THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD NOT BE AMISS IN EXPECTING TO REALIZE --SAY-- A QUARTER OF A MILLION PALNAN CROWNS...
...OR THE CORRESPONDING VALUE IN --SAY-- T'CAPMIN CROSSBOWMEN?
I THINK I COULD MANAGE THAT...
MR. PRIME MINISTER SIR...
EXCELLENT. NATURALLY YOU WILL BE PERMITTED TO KEEP ANY EXCESS PROFIT... JUST HAVE THE CROSSBOWMEN SENT TO OUR BORDER OUTPOSTS ON THE OESIS RIVER...
OH.
I ALMOST FORGOT.
I'LL BE REPORTING THE JEWELS STOLEN IN ORDER TO COLLECT THE INSURANCE, SO YOU ONLY HAVE UNTIL SUNDOWN TO GET THEM OUTSIDE OF WEST'S JURISDICTION.
IF YOU'RE CAUGHT I WILL BE UNABLE TO KEEP YOU FROM BEING EXECUTED...
WOT?!
BUT...
BUT...
SLAM!
THE SUN
INAUGURATION JEWELS STOLEN
DEVOTIONALISTS SUSPECTED
The Times
SUDDEN WEALTH FOR THEOCRATS
INAUGURATION JEWELS SUSPECTED

WHAT I MEAN TO SAY, MR. PRIME MINISTER IS THAT THE IDEALS OF THE NEW REPUBLICANISM SEEM SOMEHOW.... AT ODDS WITH THE SWEEPING..
...REFORMS...
OF THE LAST FEW DAYS.
OUR SUPPORTERS CHOSE YOU AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO LORD JULIUS -- A CARETAKER TO KEEP OUR GREAT CITY-STATE INTACT AND TO AVOID ANY DRASTIC MID-COURSE CORRECTIONS IN WHAT HAS BEEN IEST'S UNBLEMISHED RECORD OF CO-OPERATION WITH ITS NEIGHBOUR STATES
DEATH TO THE ENEMIES OF THE LIVING TARIM!
DEATH
THE WATERS OF THE FELD, THE OESIB AND THE CHESMI WILL RUN RED WITH THE BLOOD OF THE UN-BELIEVERS!!
MIGHTY WILL HIS GREAT WRATH BE -- ALL WILL DIE IN THE LINCLEAN LANDS
YES!
WE SHALL BE HIS INSTRUMENT
WE SHALL LAY WASTE TO THE FOUL BEINGS WHO MOCK HIS NAME
DECAPITATE!
IMPALE!!
EVISCERATE!!!
THIS IS OUR MISSION!
THESE ARE OUR IDEALS!!
BLAKELY, I DON'T BELIEVE YOU'VE MET MY NEW MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.
CHARMED I'M SURE

YOU HAVE THE BANK DRAUGHT FOR THREE QUARTERS OF A MILLION PALNAN CROWNS PAYABLE TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE?
OF COURSE. AND NOW, WITHIN A MERE FORTNIGHT WE WILL BE EVEN CLOSER NEIGHBOURS THAN EVER BEFORE, YES? HA-HA...
HAVE THE T'CAPMINS SETTLED ON A PRICE?
THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND FOR THE CAVALRY... THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND FOR THE PIKE...
A HUNDRED THOUSAND FOR FOOD, SUPPLIES ... THEY'RE READY TO MOVE AS SOON AS THE CHEQUE CLEARS
FINE.
HERE. TELL THEM TO KEEP THE CHANGE..
THE SUN
PAPAL FARM LANDS SOLD TO LOWER FELDA
"BALANCED BUDGET NOW WITHIN REACH" SAYS P.M.
The Times
FELDANS TO CROSS THE OESIS!
DON'T LOOK AT US -- YOU ELECTED HIM!
A BALANCED BUDGET! IN THIS DAY AND AGE! WELL, HE CAN HAVE HIS BALANCED BUDGET FOR A FEW WEEKS
THEN WE WILL BE ACROSS THE RIVER...
AND HIS BUDGET ...
WILL BE THE VERY LEAST OF HIS WORRIES ...

BUT, MR. PRIME MINISTER, SURELY YOU CAN SEE...
SEE? ALL I SEE IS A HANDFUL OF TROUBLE-MAKERS BREAKING A FEW WINDOWS AND CHANTING SOME IDIOT SLOGANS...
ALL I SEE IS MY DOMESTIC AFFAIRS ADVISOR LETTING THEM CONVINCE HIM THAT CEREBUS HAS LOST TOUCH WITH THE COMMON PEOPLE
TWO THOUSAND BUREAUCRATS IS HARDLY A MERE HANDFUL.
CEREBUS IS ALWAYS IN TOUCH WITH THE COMMON PEOPLE
ASK ANYONE--THIS JOKER FOR INSTANCE. HEY! HEY YOU! YEAH, YOU!...
FORGET FOR ONE MINUTE THAT I AM CEREBUS YOUR BELOVED...
MR. PRIME MINISTER?
AHEM: BELOVED PRIME MINISTER, SPEAKING AS AN AVERAGE CITIZEN...
...WOULD YOU SAY THAT CEREBUS HAS LOST TOUCH WITH THE COMMON PEOPLE?
I REALLY COULDN'T SAY, MR. PRIME MINISTER...
NO?!
AND WHY NOT?!
BECAUSE I'M NOT AN AVERAGE CITIZEN, I'M THE MINISTER OF ROADS AND WATERWAYS...
IF CEREBUS EVER CATCHES YOU IMPERSONATING AN AVERAGE CITIZEN AGAIN...
CEREBUS WILL HAVE YOU EXECUTED--UNDERSTAND!?
Y-YES, MR. PRIME MINISTER...


THE SUN
P.M. GOES TO REGENCY TO MEET WITH INNER CIRCLE ON CIVIL UNREST
The Times
INNER CIRCLE?!?
YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS
THE MAGIC CRYSTAL REVEALS MUCH! GREAT UNCERTAINTY! GREAT UNREST! YOU DEFY TRADITION AT YOUR OWN PERIL! DISCORDIA MAY PROVE YOUR MASTER AND NOT YOUR SLAVE! OMMM.
FOR THIS CEREBUS IS GIVING YOU FREE ROOM AND BOARD?
LOOK. WHY DON'T YOU JUST TELL THE BUREAUCRACY THAT YOU'RE SELLING THE PAPAL FARM LANDS TO GET ENOUGH MONEY TO INVADE LOWER FELDAR
BECAUSE THEN THE SURPRISE INVASION WON'T BE A SURPRISE..
WHY DON'T YOU TELL THEM, BUT ALSO TELL THEM IT'S A SECRET AND THEY CAN'T TELL ANYBODY FROM LOWER FELDA
I GUESS THAT WOULDN'T WORK SO GOOD, WOULD IT?
"ABIDING FAITH IN THE PRINCIPLES OF THE NEW REPUBLICANISM"
IF HE'D JUST ADMIT THAT HE WANTS A SHARE OF CEREBUS' PROFIT, INSTEAD OF HIDING BEHIND HIS DAMN SLOGANS...
THE GREEDY SON OF A...

SON OF A WHAT?
PROFIT!
PROPHETS
EXACTLY! THEY WANT TO SHARE IN THE PROFITS. THAT'S ALL THEY'RE ANGRY ABOUT, BUT THEY WON'T ADMIT IT
SO?
SO CEREBUS WILL SHARE THE PROFITS WITH THEM
BUT YOU SPENT ALL THE PROFITS ON MERCENARIES.
YES! BUT THOSE MERCENARIES ARE NOW PREPARING TO TAKE OVER LOWER FELDA!
CEREBUS CAN PAY THE BUREAUCRACY OUT OF THE MONEY HE MAKES BY PLUNDERING BEDUIN!
WHAT HAPPENS IF THE INVASION FAILS?
LOOK. IF YOU'RE GOING TO TALK CRAZY CEREBUS IS JUST GOING TO HAVE TO FIND SOMEONE ELSE FOR HIS INNER CIRCLE...
I'M SORRY I'M SORRY! I WON'T DO IT AGAIN -- I PROMISE!

THANK YOU, MR PRIME MINISTER! I'M SURE THIS GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION TO THE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES PENSION FUND WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS SMOOTHING ANY RUFFLED BUREAUCRATIC FEATHERS
HEH HEH
A QUARTER OF A MILLION CROWNS!
BLESSED TARIM!
IF I ONLY SKIM OFF FIFTY THOUSAND FOR MYSELF, THAT WILL STILL LEAVE
EXCUSE ME.
UH.
EXCUSE ME?
YES?
I JUST LEFT THE PRIME MINISTER AND... WELL... HE FORGOT TO SIGN THIS CHEQUE!
FINE
IF YOU'LL LEAVE IT WITH ME, I'LL SEE THAT IT'S BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION
UH.
UH.
IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE?
UH I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU COULD
THAT HE WOULD
RIGHT NOW?
THE PRIME MINISTER IS VERY BUSY I'M AFRAID
UH
WELL
DO YOU MIND IF I WAIT?
NOT AT ALL
I HOPE YOU BROUGHT A SLEEPING

HE'S GREEDY ENOUGH TO WAIT AT LEAST TWO DAYS FOR A SIGNATURE..
SO... THAT'S HOW LONG WE HAVE TO GET OUR HANDS ON THE LOWER FELDAN TREASURY.. YOUR TROOP REPORT, BRAN
THE PIKE ARE IN POSITION?
YES, MR PRIME MINISTER ...
THE CAVALRY?
YES, MR PRIME MINISTER
THE CROSS BOWMEN?
BRAN?
THAT'S ODD
GREAT NEWS, MR. PRIME MINISTER!!
YOU FINALLY FOUND THE TIMES OFFICE AND SMASHED THE PRINTING PRESS?
BETTER THAN THAT!
I FOUND THE CRIMINAL WHO STOLE THE INAUGURATION JEWELS
HE SLUNK STEALTHILY FROM THE CITY-- THE MANTLE OF DARKNESS SHROUDING HIS EVERY MOVEMENT-- INVISIBLE TO ALL SAVE THE MERELY MAGNIFICENT MOON ROACH!
THE DARKNIGHT DO GOODER FOLLOWED AT A DISCREET DISTANCE, WATCHING EACH SUBTLE MOVEMENT OF HIS FELONIOUS QUARRY, WHEN, VERY SUDDENLY...
SMAKT!
THE WORLD BROKE OUT IN STAR-SPANGLED FROSTONITE.. THE ONLY SUBSTANCE THAT CAN HURT
CAN YOU STILL GET US THE CROSSBOWMEN?
HAVE YOU GOT ANY MORE FUZZY DETECTIVES?
NO
I'LL DO MY BEST

TOMORROW BEFORE DAWN THE IESTAN ARMY WILL HIT FORT MAINES AND FORT PEREN...THE FIGHT WILL PROBABLY ONLY LAST AN HOUR OR TWO AT THE MOST SINCE THE TREATY HASN'T BEEN BROKEN IN ALMOST A HUNDRED YEARS...
THEY WILL BE UNDER ORDERS TO PUT BOTH FORTS TO THE TORCH... WHICH WILL DRAW PELDAN REINFORCEMENTS FROM THE EAST...
FORT MAINES
FORT PEREN
YOU AND YOUR MERCENARIES WILL BYPASS THE FORTS AND AMBUSH THE REINFORCEMENTS WEST OF THE CITY AT COMMERCE PASS...
PEDRIN
THEYR
PERENAL
AFTER SMASHING THE REINFORCEMENTS YOU ARE TO CAPTURE THE GARRISON IN THE WEST GATE...
AND THEN MOVE INTO THE CITY ...
WHERE WE CAPTURE GOVERNMENT HEADQUARTERS.
GOVERNMENT HEADQUARTERS?
NO NO
THE TREASURY BUILDING...
CEREBUS NEEDS MONEY -- NOT BUREAUCRATS ...
ALL CEREBUS WANTS IS PALNAN AND T'CAPMIN CURRENCIES AND GOLD COINS AND BULLION -- YOUR MEN ARE WELCOME TO ANY OTHER LOOT THAT THEY CAN CARRY...
AYE. CEREBUS THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE...
THAT WAS A BIG HELP WHEN IT CAME TO RECRUITING

ONCE WE HAVE BEDUIN, YOU SHOULD HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO SHIP THE CURRENCY BACK HERE TO ME--BUT I'LL NEED AN ACCURATE ACCOUNTING ALMOST IMMEDIATELY...
WHAT STORY ARE YOU GOING TO TELL THE POWDER-PUFFS TO GET THEM TO BREAK THE TREATY?
CEREBUS ALMOST FORGOT-- HE GOT A REPORT FROM THE EMBASSY ON POSSIBLE AREAS OF FRICTION ...
WHAT?
THIS IS AN OUTRAGE!
OUR RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE HAS BEEN AT THE BEDUIN POST FOR TWO YEARS!
AND THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT HASN'T ONCE INVITED HIM TO THEIR YEAR-END BANQUET!
OF COURSE THEY MUST REALIZE THIS MEANS WAR!
D'YOU GUYS REALLY TALK LIKE THAT?
SOMETIMES
REMEMBER TO BRING THAT LETTER WITH YOU WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR REPORT...

YOU KNOW, PINSHAW, I HAVEN'T A DECENT NIGHT'S SLEEP SINCE THAT REPORT ARRIVED BY COURIER... I LIE AWAKE BY THE HOUR THINKING ABOUT THE ABSOLUTE NERVE OF THOSE PEOPLE...
SLIMY LITTLE POWDERED AND PERFUMED GRAPE-STOMPERS, ALWAYS LOOKING DOWN THEIR NOSES AT WE DECENT AND HARD-WORKING FOLK
IT DOESN'T TAKE TOO MUCH IMAGINATION TO FIGURE OUT WHY THEY DID IT... YOU'VE HEARD THE WAY THEY TALK ABOUT US, HAVEN'T YOU, PINSHAW...?
"LET'S NOT INVITE THE IESTAN" ONE WOULD SNIFF. "YOU ARE ONLY TOO RIGHT" HIS FRIEND WOULD GIGGLE WHILE THEY SIP THAT VILE RIVER MUCK THEY CALL WINE
"THOSE PEOPLE USE GOATS FOR WET-NURSES, DON'T THEY"
"EVEN WORSE, MY FRIEND THE STUPID ORIFICES BREED THE SMELLY BEASTS"
"WHICH WOULD NOT BE BAD IF THEY WOULD BREED THEM TO EACH OTHER INSTEAD OF TO THEIR DAUGHTERS" THEY WOULD OF COURSE LAUGH AT THIS..
THEN THEY WOULD TURN AND CLEAR THEIR NOSTRILS IN THE DIRECTION OF THE IESTAN FLAG THEY USE TO CLEAN OUT THEIR FIRE PLACES...
"WHY NOT INVITE THE IESTANS WIFE ONLY, THEN?"
"HIS WIFE? BUT WHY INVITE HER, MY FRIEND?"
"SHE IS SUCH AN UGLY COW, SHE COULD GIVE US SOUR MILK WHICH WE COULD USE TO MAKE OUR DELICATE SNOBBISH SAUCES"
EXCUSE ME, SIR!...
YEES, PINSHAW
PERMIT ME TO CROSS THE RIVER AND WIPE OUT THE MANGY SCUM, SIR
WHAT A WONDERFUL IDEA... I HAVE SOME PLANS RIGHT OVER HERE...

REALLY, MR. PRIME MINISTER--
WOULDN'T IT BE EASIER TO JUST WRITE OUT ANOTHER ONE?
ASTORIA SAID SHE'D LEAVE IT ON HER DESK FOR ME TO SIGN... IT MUST BE HERE SOMEWHERE
JUST HAVE TO LOOK AROUND A BIT..
SIGH...
ODD.. SOME SORT OF GLOW ON THE HORIZON...
A FIRE OR SOMETHING
MR PRIME MINISTER -- THERE'S SOME KIND OF...
EEEK!
WE CAPTURED THE CITY A FEW HOURS AGO
SORRY I'M SO LATE
WE WERE TORTURING PRISONERS AND I LOST TRACK OF THE TIME
YOU WANT US TO COUNT THE MONEY TONIGHT?
NO. TOMORROW WILL BE SOON ENOUGH...
WELL I'LL BE DARNED... YOUR CHEQUE WAS RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME THE WHOLE TIME

observer it seemed at each juncture that the first crisis to face the young administration would prove its undoing. We New Republicans were well aware that the permanent dissolution of the Legislature was steeped in controversy. Those of us closer to the new prime minister and his plans, of course, recognized the philosophical edge to such a program. To wit: with the superstructure of the Church now removed as the final arbiter of such matters political, why indeed **not** dissolve the Legislature? Some went so far in their anxiety as to form splinter parties: the Anarcho-Romantics and the Repredigressionals foremost of these. But, again, those of us in the forefront of the New Republicanism tended to view these as quasi-intellectual aberrationists -- so many effete tails trying to wag a singularly inspired and profoundly simplistic canine. Even while the less rigorous of our stout fellows viewed with alarm the imposition of prohibitively high sales and import taxes, there was always that core of faithful (myself included of course) who seemed almost to guess that there was method to this seeming madness.

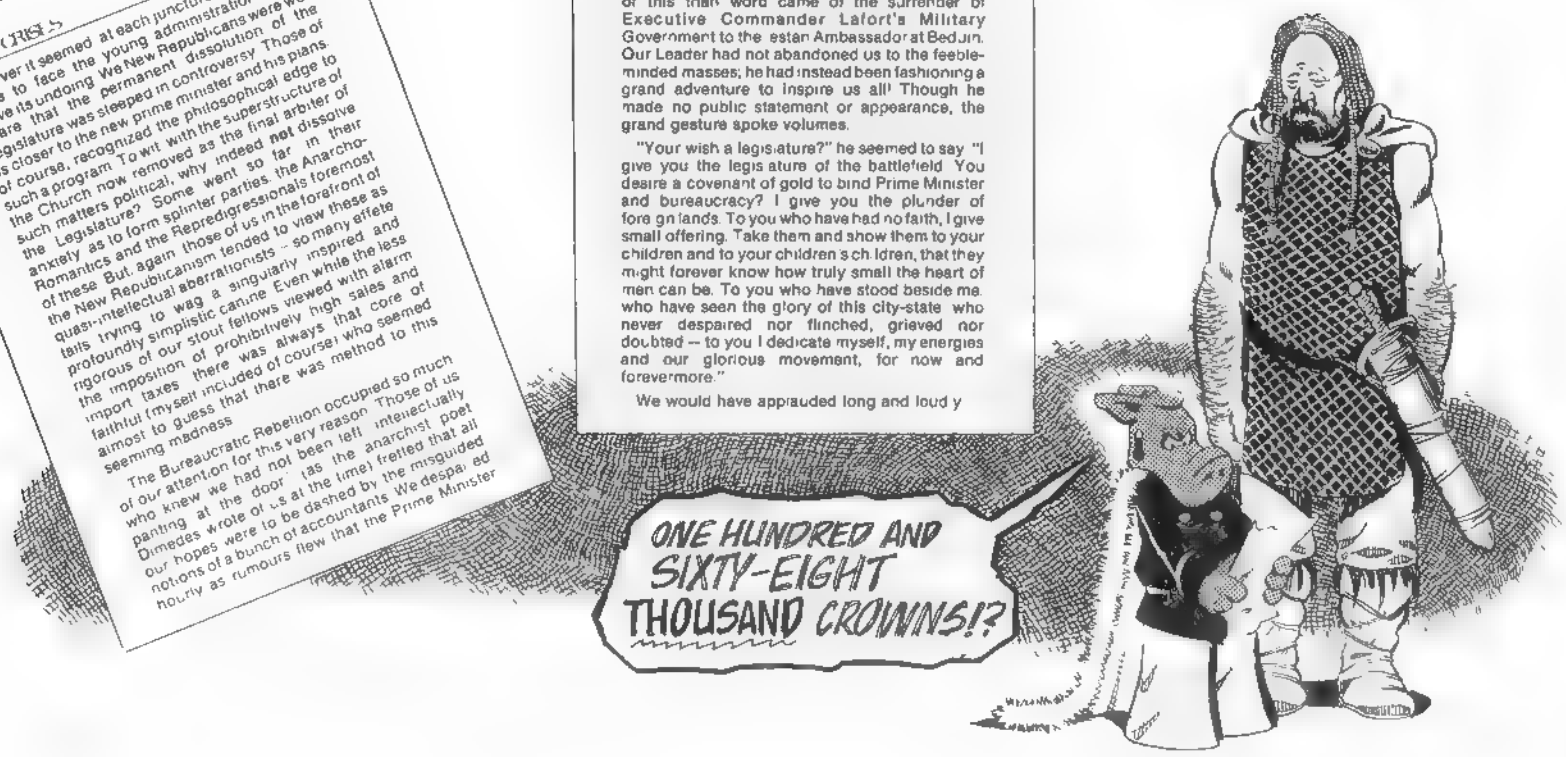
The Bureaucratic Rebellion occupied so much of our attention for this very reason. Those of us who knew we had not been left intellectually panting at the door (as the anarchist poet Dimedes wrote of us at the time) fretted that all our hopes were to be dashed by the misguided notions of a bunch of accountants. We despaired hourly as rumours flew that the Prime Minister

had resigned, that Astoria was being held by the mob for ransom. We tried reason and were called fools. We tried argument and were told we were fantasizing feather-heads (imagine!)

Then, like an icy-blue bolt of lightning from Tarim himself, came the magnificent military victories in Lower Felda. Fort Maines and Fort Peren fell. We had barely realized the full import of this than word came of the surrender of Executive Commander Lafort's Military Government to the estan Ambassador at Bedjin. Our Leader had not abandoned us to the feeble-minded masses; he had instead been fashioning a grand adventure to inspire us all! Though he made no public statement or appearance, the grand gesture spoke volumes.

"Your wish a legislature?" he seemed to say. "I give you the legislature of the battlefield. You desire a covenant of gold to bind Prime Minister and bureaucracy? I give you the plunder of foreign lands. To you who have had no faith, I give small offering. Take them and show them to your children and to your children's children, that they might forever know how truly small the heart of men can be. To you who have stood beside me, who have seen the glory of this city-state who never despaired nor flinched, grieved nor doubted -- to you I dedicate myself, my energies and our glorious movement, for now and forevermore."

We would have applauded long and loudly



ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND IN T'CAPMIN CURRENCY ...ANOTHER SIXTY EIGHT THOUSAND IN PALNAN CURRENCY
NO GOLD
THAT'S ALL?!
THEY HAD TWENTY THOUSAND BOLTS OF BURLAP CLOTH, BUT I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D WANT THEM ...
THEY MUST HAVE HIDDEN ALL OF THEIR MONEY SOMEWHERE. THEY MUST HAVE...
WE TORTURED THE HEAD TREASURY GUY. ACCORDING TO HIM THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN BROKE FOR TEN YEARS ...
BROKE!?
THAT'S RIDICULOUS! HOW CAN A WHOLE COUNTRY BE BROKE?
OKAY! OKAY!
BUT WHY DID THAT COUNTRY HAVE TO BE BROKE?

AH! THERE YOU ARE, MR. PRIME MINISTER... I'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIND YOU...
A LETTER FROM LORD JULIUS JUST ARRIVED BY DIPLOMATIC MESSENGER
READ IT
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR SUPERB MILITARY VICTORY STOP YOUR MOTHER AND I ARE MIGHTY PROUD STOP WILL BE ARRIVING NEXT WEEK FOR TRILATERAL SUMMIT STOP ENCLOSED FIND BANK OF PALNU'S BILL FOR LOWER FELDA RE FISCAL 1413 STOP SINCERELY DADDY"
BILL FOR...?
GIVE ME THAT!!
WHAT'S IT SAY?
"OUTSTANDING LOANS TO MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF LOWER FELDA .....689 MILLION CROWNS INTEREST PAYMENT OF 36 MILLION CROWNS DUE WITHIN 30 DAYS..."
DOES IT SAY ANYTHING ELSE?
HE ALSO SENT YOU A BOX OF CIGARS AND AN INVITATION TO THE FESTIVAL OF PETUNIAS
"NO CHEQUES PLEASE"

SO...!
LORD JULLS THINKS I'M GOING TO ASSUME LOWER FELDA'S DEBTS JUST BECAUSE I'VE CAPTURED IT...
WELL HE HAS A SURPRISE COMING AT NEXT WEEK'S SUMMIT..
HE LL FIND THAT CEREBUS THE AARDVARK, THE EARTH-PIG BORN, PRIME MINISTER OF THE CITY STATE OF IEST IS NOBODY'S...
BANG!
...FOOL

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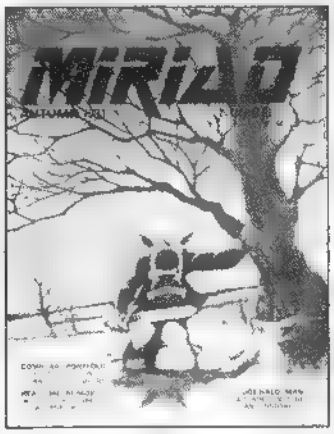

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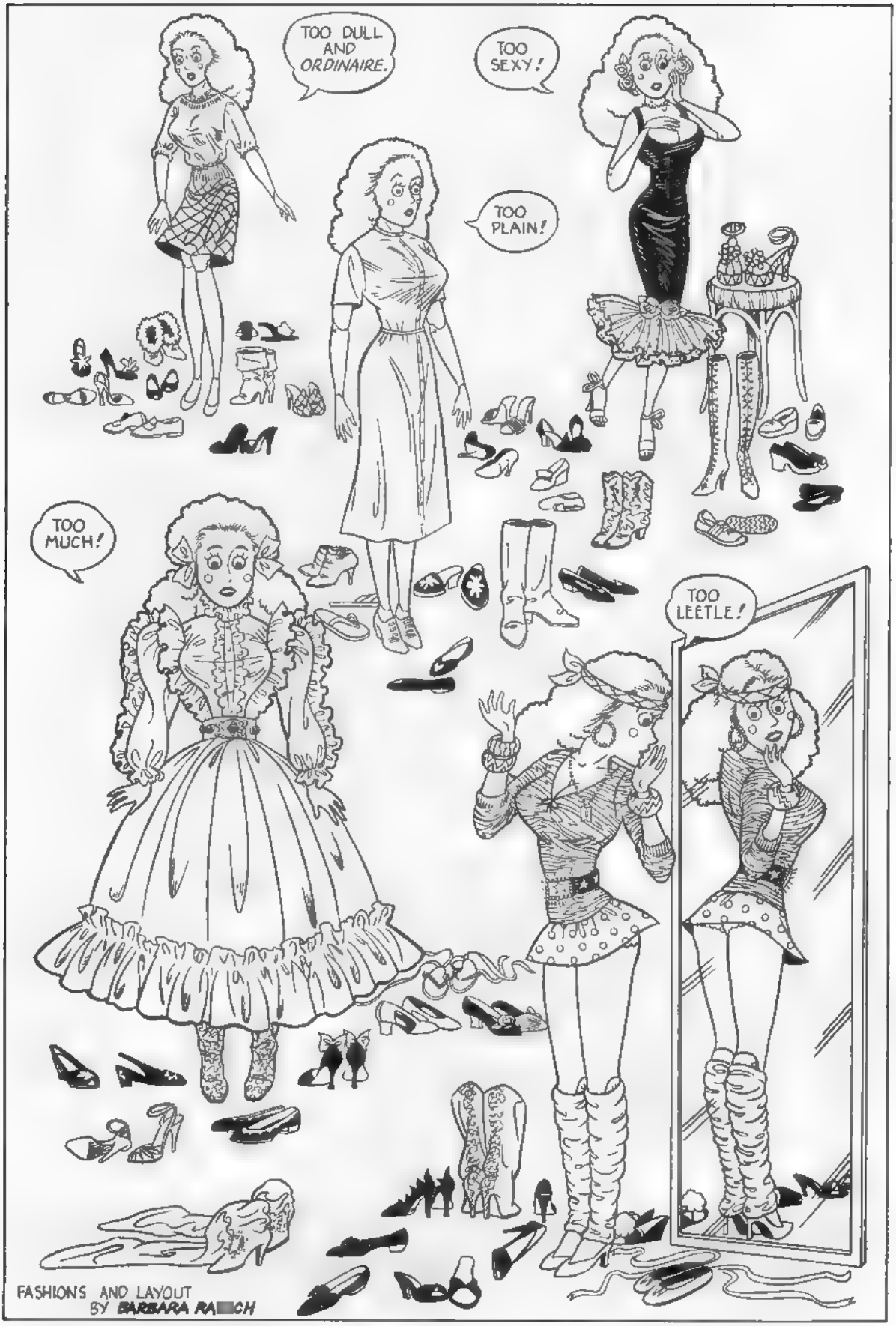
ARN SABA's
MAM'SELLE
POUPÉE
SOMEDAY 'E COME ALONG ... ZE MAN I LOVE ...
AS SUGGESTED BY KATANNYA JANTZEN, AGE 10
SOMEBODY LOVES ME ... I WONDER 'OO ...
OH, ZESE KNOTS! MAYBE I NEED ZE INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH CONDITIONER!
SAPRISTI! I 'AVE ONLY ZE TWO HOURS! I 'AVE TO 'URRY!
COTTON
TISSUE
POUDRE
Skin


TOO DULL AND ORDINAIRE.
TOO SEXY!
TOO PLAIN!
TOO MUCH!
TOO LEETLE!
FASHIONS AND LAYOUT BY BARBARA RA■CH

I LIKE EET!
KNOCK KNOCK
'ALLO, FREDDIE!
HEY, GOOD-LOOKING! BUT HAVE YOU SEEN THE WEATHER? THE CONCERT IS RAINED OUT!
TU AS RAISON, MON CHERI! ALORS – I CHANGE WHILE YOU LIGHT ZE FIRE, HIEN?
DO YOU THINK THIS WINE WILL TASTE JUST AS GOOD INDOORS?
WELL, ANYWAY – EET EES ZE GETTING FEEX UP ZAT EES ZE FUN – NOT ZE STAYING ZAT WAY!
©ARN SABA 9 8 2

INKING BY ***WARREN GREENWOOD***

ARN SABA's Neil The Horse ADVERTISES HIMSELF!?!

I WOULD LIKE TO INVEST IN A COMIC BOOK OF A MEDIUM VINTAGE - SOMETHING A BIT DRY, BUT FULL-BODIED.
HEY, SOAPY! IS IT HERE YET?
YEH, IT'S AT TH' BACK.... SIR, HOW'S ABOUT A KELLY MUDDER GOOSE - OR SOMETH'N BY GEORGE CARLSEN?
SALE!
SAN DIEGO CON
KATY KEENE
ELFQUEST
SPACE DOG
MODESTY BLAISE
RAW
CUTE BUNNY
STEVE CANYON
SPIRIT
MS TREE
GIRRO
WILD KINGDOM
WOMAN'S COMIC
ECLIPSE
OBOY! FINALLY!
DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING BY OTTO MESSMER?
HOW'S ABOUT ONE A' TH' UNDERVALUED BARKS ISSUES — FROM AROUND '56? HEY! NEIL! LOOK OUT!
HEY KIDS! COMICS
JEEZ, YA GOT TH' MARVELS ALL MIXED UP! HOW'S I GONNA TELL 'EM APART?
IS THAT IT UP THERE?
WATCH OUT! DOSE T'INGS IS WOITH MONEY!
I SAY! YOU SEEM TO HAVE INVESTED HEAVILY IN CEREBUS # ONE!
FLY BY NIGHT PRESS
YEH. ER - I'SE KEEPIN' 'EM UP DERE TA'-UH- MATURE!
YA-A-A-Y! I SEE IT!
©ARN SABA 1982
CRIM NETLIES! YOU'VE TRASHED TH' UNDERGROUNDS! OR. DID DEY COME DAT WAY?
WOW! MY VERY OWN COMIC!
MAIS OUI, NEIL! AND EET EES MERVEILLEUX!
HMM. NEIL THE HORSE?
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AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

NOTES

Well, here we are back again after our whirlwind five week tour of the Great Republic. We had a wonderful time and were well-received everywhere. We made a lot of new friends, had a chance to see a few old friends, did more than a dozen interviews and met (Deni estimates) about six to ten percent of the Cerebus readership. I am exhausted writing this after having arrived back late in the month for starting a new issue. The tour itself was a breeze compared to keeping a monthly comic book on schedule. We'll have more to say about the tour in the months to come and we'd like to remind everyone to send their photographs, interviews, xeroxes of sketches and any personal recollections of tour '82 (and to thank everyone who already has). For now, it's back to the old drawing board and this month's letters column.

Hello!

My first encounter with CEREBUS was issue 2, which I picked off the rack, browsed through, and put back in place, thinking "Ah! Howard the Duck meets Smith's Conan!"

All right. So it appears this was a mistake.

In the ensuing months, fandom started getting praisefully vocal about CEREBUS. But then, fandom has hailed master swipers from Esteban Maroto to Brunner and Sienkiewicz as creators in their own right, so what does fandom really know? A friend lent me issues 15 and 16, and I was hooked. Not only was this **good**, but the art was terrific and original, and there was Groucho Marx. I could not find an outlet that sold the mag before issue 24. (So what do you think? That CEREBUS is sold in France?) but from then on, I've been a regular. I could go on with the praise, but what can one really say? The mag is great fun and I love it. I'll give a special mention to the covers since issue 39: the color schemes have been outstanding, and the results far more satisfying that the run of recent paintings.

This, I know, is a very dull letter. It seems that letters of praise are invariably dull. I just wanted to acknowledge the fun I have every month or so, with your magazine, the more so since the reintroduction of a smattering of slapstick humor.

So, come on, carry on with CEREBUS. I'll be watching.

Sincerely yours,

Patrick Marcel
8/17 Residence des Pres Lenclos
62760 CUCQ FRANCE

Thank you for a very nice letter. Your stamp looks great in Deni's collection, by the way.

Dear David,

It is not often one must begin a fan letter with a mini-auto-biography, but it is necessary in order to put my comments in the proper frame of reference. I have been both an amateur and professional political worker on and off since 1968. I began, as a student, working for Senator Robert Kennedy, and after his tragic death, for Hubert Humphrey. Then, since Edward Kennedy did not run in 1976, like other Kennedy men, I worked in Jimmy Carter's primary campaign, and in the fall presidential election, this time as professional staff member. And in 1980 I was involved with the (sadly) unsuccessful primary campaign of Sen. Edward Kennedy. (Guess what I'll be doing in 1984.) The point is, I know politics, inside and out.

Which brings us to your current story line in Cerebus. It is wildly funny, of course, and the art is up to the Sim excellent standards, but over and above those remarks, this campaign is tragically and hilariously true to life. . . accurate, that is. I am tempted to believe you have yourself been involved in the political arena. Sad, if true, since that means you Canadians are as screwed up as we Yanks. No, you are not, cause Trudeau runs circles 'round our gag, Nixon and Reagan. After all, Trudeau was conferring with John Lennon on world peace at the same time Nixon was trying to deport him. But I digress. I was saying accurate, that is. If you are not or never have been in politics, you are one of the most perceptive and astute observers of that profession ever. Not a surprise, since your writing (and art) has always been marked by your uncanny ability to capture the essence of a character or situation, whether straight or satirical. The political journalism profession lost a fine reporter when you decided to do comics. Thank goodness! Reporters are a dime a dozen, but good comics are like rare, well, apricot brandy.

I only came to Cerebus this summer. Due to constant urging from Cat Yronwode and your fellow Ontario dweller Elizabeth Holden, both friends by mail, I tried this "best comic on the market." Sho' nuff, dey wuz keerect. I managed to get the first 16 issues through your reprints (and bless the considerate Deni and Dave for thus allowing new fans economically feasable access to early issues), and every other issue from 17 to the latest, here, #43. And I have never enjoyed a run of comics more. I have continued to spead the word, converting 5 new fans at our comb nation non-club for comics and barbarian savage group, called 'Sparkie's Marauders.' And yes, we are as sick as we sound. The fact is, and I do not give fatuous praise, that all one needs to do to convert a comic fan to a Cerebus fan is convince him/her ??? to read one or two issues. The quality does the rest.

Let me close by thanking Dave and Deni for one of the most entertaining summers of back issue reading I have had the pleasure to experience. Dave, you are almost as much a smart-ass as I (private joke for Liz, my pal), and we share much in a sense of humour, and world-view. Ya done good, kid.

Because I have developed so much admiration for your talent, and so much appreciation for your giving me so much enjoyment, I feel I may close.

With Love,

Steven Zanvil Sawolkin
8810 Comanche Court
Olivette, MO 63132

As a long-time Kennedy follower and political groupie (of sorts), I was very pleased to hear that you found Cerebus reasonably accurate politically. Best of luck in '84. (This was written before you know-who announced you know-what).

So you thought, I say, so you thought only Elfquest could run cute tie-in photos of their character's names? Elrod & Son was submitted by Bill Mosher of Chino, California that is. Choice meats including Albino, I say, Albino cutlets, son.

AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

Dear Dave and Deni,

I was greatly surprised that I enjoyed Cerebus #42. Not that I don't like the book, it's just that since it turned so political I haven't enjoyed it as much. I'm not political in any way and all this double and triple talk gets my head to spinning. Aside from all this, I did enjoy #42. I am ashamed to say that I didn't expect it to be as good as it was, but that goes to show you how narrow-minded even a long time reader like myself can be.

What changed my opinion of the book was the Rodney Dangerfield character. He was the reason that prompted this letter. He made an otherwise political situation bearable (along with the Regancy elf). Well, I just thought that you'd be interested in this reader's opinion and I must say that I'm quite glad that all this political brouhahaha is soon gonna be over.

P.S. How about a short story where "Sir Rodney" meets Lord Julius? Thanks for listening.

Harold Karey
Jersey City, N.J.

I admit that it was a little unfair to squeeze you en between Steven and Bob, Harold. Maybe you can take heart from my answer to Bob's letter, though.

Dear Dave and Deni,

Well, yes, I did read CEREBUS when it first came out, but didn't stick with it, barbarian satire, as a genre, just didn't much appeal to me. At least, not until a few years later, when, by some caprice of fate, my first published story turned out to be a barbarian satire (in EPIC ILLUSTRATED #11). I began to warm to thud and blunder.

And when visiting the EPIC offices just last month, I was shown a hilarious "Little Nemo" barbarian satire Dave had done for the book, and, with Dave's name pulled back to the forefront of my consciousness, I decided to give CEREBUS a second look. So I went out and bought the last fifteen issues.

And, migod, it's not barbarian satire anymore. It's ... I don't want to say this, people will think I'm a praise ninny, but it's **literature.** In twenty-odd years of reading comics, I've never come across anything to compare with this -- the first real graphic comedy of manners and power. Sort of like Moliere crossed with Jane Austen crossed with Hunter Thomson -- but then again, not really. WHAT HAPPENED? And why have I been missing out? I just **hate** missing these small-scale cultural revolutions, **especially** when I've been around for the opening act. Consider me repentent -- consider me born again. Consider me at your service. Do you need your venetian blinds cleaned?

Really -- I look back at the "Howard the Duck for President" issues Steve Gerber did and they look so obvious and graceless. The "High Society" sequence in Cerebus simply goes beyond anything ever attempted in comics before, in scope, in tone, in the sheer complexity of the narrative; no, literature **isn't** too strong a word. Not these days; not when the graphic medium is gradually becoming a creator's medium, not when something like "High Society" is possible. As for the art -- it reminds me of a Fred Astaire dance routine. There goes Fred all over the soundstage, like he weighs four ounces, doing all sorts of terpsicorean tricks and treats, looking for all the world as though it were spontaneous and effortless. Ditto Dave's work on CEREBUS --so full of brilliant, superbly-executed storytelling devices on every page, that it all begins to look like the natural order; and it's only when you get back to a regular book from the House of Ideas or its Distinctive Competition that you realize how every page of CEREBUS is head-and-shoulders above its plodding commercial sisters. The design sense in CEREBUS is so strong that reading each issue is pretty equally an aesthetic and an intellectual adventure.

Oh, yeah -- the covers are especially fine. You seem to go through phases with these -- when you become fond of a particular device or look, and each cover reflects this until you become fond of a new one, it keeps the covers very fresh, and very exciting.

Can the Regency Elf have her own back-up series? Huh? Please? And are Cerebus dolls still available? At any price? (It's not for **me** of course, it's for my -- uh, my little **nephew**.)

Anyway -- in order to bring this letter to a thematically satisfying close: let me just add how grateful I am that you **won't** be returning to Hyborean humor with CEREBUS. Leave that to those of us who are new at the game. You've found something much more enduring, much more resonant.

Bob Rodi
2811 N. Pine Grove Ave.
#28
Chicago, Ill. 60614

The Cerebus dolls are still available for $15.00 from Sheila Watson, Apt. 6 - 549 Victoria Street South, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada. N2M 3A8. If I gave each of the supporting characters a back-up series when demand was great enough, there'd be no room left for Cerebus!

Sorry, Elf fans.

I never said I wasn't returning to Hyborean humour -- I just don't want to make it a steady diet -- and I certainly don't intend to stop High Society early in order to get back to it. I hope that clears up some of the confusion about future directions of Cerebus.

Dear Dave and Deni,

Here I shell out a buck and a half of my hard-earned money for my comic, and what do I find? Some "earth-pig" named Cerebus has taken over! There're only a few obligatory panels with me in 'em. This is an outrage! This is an afront to my mentality, an afront to my sanity, an' a front to my back! Why, I'm so mad, I'm turning

CEREBUS ORIGINAL ART

That's right. I'm still selling Cerebus original artwork. $100 per page. Issues 30 through 35 are pretty well picked over, but everyone's taste is different it seems. there have been very few multiple orders for single pages (the possible exception being the "wee wees on the sink" page which I could have sold six times over). Everyone who has included alternate selections has ended up with nothing lower than the second choice on their list. Certified cheques or money orders. Payable to Aardvark Vanaheim. Makes the ideal Christmas gift. Orders shipped within a week (now that Deni has help in the office). I reserve the right to reject discounts for quantity orders, but I also reserve the right to let my greed get the better of me. Make me an offer.

AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

orange, and then what'll you have? An orange Julius! Well, I for one won't stand for it!

Take the two party system of Palnu, known colloquially as the "us versus them" system. This is a new system that, in all dishonesty does not work. Why, a one party system was good enough for your grandfather, but who wants to be seen with him nowadays? No one, not even his pet avocado. Ah yes, I remember the one party system. That was some party! I didn't get home until around four in the morning. I was blind for three days. Not like the party today. Hah! You call this a party? Some party. There's nothing, not even ice cream. To top all of this off, you aren't even aware of the issues! Take the alligator pears. Take all the alligator pears and keep 'em! See if I care! Have you any idea how alligator pears are made? No? Well, that's because you've never been an alligator, and don't let it happen again.

Oh, Deni, Deni, can't you see what I am trying to say! I love you! I love everything about you! Your eyes. Your money. Your nose. Your money. Your lips. Your money. You have got money, haven't you? Because if not, I can quit right here. I might still love you, but I'd keep my trap shut about it. But, you are asking, what are my qualifications as a candidate. Well, medically, my experiences have been pretty dull, except during the Flu epidemic of '81. That's when I caught the Flu.

It's no use, Deni. I can't forget you. Your eyes, your nose, your mouth! Everything about you reminds me of you. Except you. Now, how do you explain that? Oh, Dave and Deni. How happy I could be with either one of you, if only you both went away!

Know now -- er -- Now know -- No, that doesn't sound right -- Uh -- Understand -- Ah hah!! -- that this entire situation in Planu has me slightly incensed, so I have therefore sent a copy of this letter, dictated to my trusted secretary, Horatio W. Jamison, to my lawyer, J. Cheever Loophole, part of the firm of Hungerdunger, Hungerdunger, and McCormack (you fool, Jamison. You left out a Hungerdunger. You left out the main one, too. Oh, well, they won't all be there when the letter arrives, anyway). If this tie situation is not cleared up (I was a tie fighter in STAR WARS), and soon, they will send you legal notice by way of their sometime-messenger, Captain Jeffery J. Spaulding. He only acts as their sometime messenger, because there is only safari would go.

I leave you now with this admonition, vote right in the Palnu elections, or, like ol' D. and D. here, you might wind up getting Lord Julius' goat.

Lord Julius
Palnu

Dear Dave and Deni,

I am terribly sorry for the above. One of my patients wanted to tell you how much he enjoyed the latest issue of **Cerebus**, number 43. As you can see, he has a slight identity problem. He thinks he's Napoleon.

A recent convert to Cerebus myself, due to your use of the Grouchonian Lord Julius, all I can say is, keep up the great work. I will keep buying **Cerebus** long after Julius departs from these pages (hopefully into his own mag.)

Ray Rose
1503 Ladd St.
Silver Springs, Maryland 20902

Ray cops the 1982 "I tried to make Dave and Deni laugh and succeeded" award. Two points for the man from Silver Spring -- you brightened our evening when we got back from the tour. Ray

Dear Dave and Deni

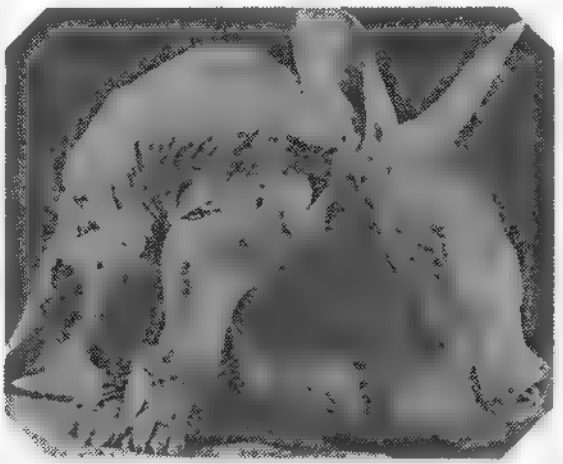
Just a quick note to tell you how much I've been enjoying 'Cerebus' lately. It seemed to fall into a slump around issue 27 continuing through to issue 32, but it's really picked up over the past 6 months. As far as I'm concerned NOBODY is currently producing a more successful blending of art and words than you Dave, at least not on such a consistent level. My only regret is that the stories are so short, though I'd rather have it that way then having you substituting quantity for quality.

Before I sign off, I've got a question I'd like to ask. Will you be reprinting the back up stories from "Swords" in a separate book? I've got a near complete collection of "Cerebus" and therefore have not purchased "Swords" from issue 2 onwards (I simply cannot afford to pay over $3.00 for an 8 page story, new covers and an introduction). I'm sure there must be other people in a similar situation, people who've been with you since the beginning only to find that their collection of Cerebus stories is incomplete due to the new stories in "Swords".

I realize that you think the fan is getting more for his money because of the back-up stories in "Swords", but to me it seems that the fan who buys "Swords" for the reprints will be well satisfied by these alone, whereas the fan who can't afford to buy them merely for an 8 page story is the one who won't be satisfied. In adopting this format for Swords, you give the "new" fan more than he expects and leave the "old" fans feeling either frustrated or cheated.

Adrian Shelley
40E Hyland Close, Hornchurch
Essex, England

Yes, we will be reprinting all of those stories in one book, but we don't have it scheduled.



An actual photo of a real true-to-life aardvark, given to us very early in the tour by a fan whose name we have forgotten (it was a loong tour, folks). Anyone else having photos of real aardvarks, or information about them beyond the standard "eats ants, lives on the African plains, lethal claws" variety are invited to send said items to That is One Ugly Quadruped, c/o Aardvark Comment Box 1674 Station C, Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 4R2 (R2 D2's grandfather according to one wag who wrote us).

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Dear Comic Fan,

This letter is to announce the 2nd Annual Comic Fan Awards, the 1982 Koppy Awards. These awards are not sponsored by or affiliated with any professional publishing company or fanzine. In order to assure the largest possible participation, no fees will be charged for voting. These are the rules:

1. Eligible Voters: any comic fan
2. Eligible for Awards:
   a. Any comic story or cover published in a book or periodical dated 1982.
   b. Any comics-related dramatic presentation show in 1982.
   c. Any person associated with the creation of comics.
3. Awards Given:
   a. Best Comic Short Story (1-12 pgs.) - Writing (Plot & Script)
   b. Best Comic Short Story (1-12 pgs.) - Art (Pencils & Ink)
   c. Best Comic Short Story (1-12 pgs.) - Coloring
   d. Best Comic Novelette (13-25 pgs.) - Writing
   e. Best Comic Novelette (13-25 pgs.) - Art
   f. Best Comic Novelette (13-25 pgs.) - Coloring
   g. Best Comic Novella (26-60 pgs.) - Writing
   h. Best Comic Novella (26-60 pgs.) - Art
   i. Best Comic Novella (26-60 pgs.) - Coloring
   j. Best Comic Novel (61 pgs. or more) - Writing
   k. Best Comic Novel (61 pgs. or more) - Art
   l. Best Comic Novel (61 pgs. or more) - Coloring
   m. Best Cover Drawing
   n. Best Cover Painting
   o. Best Dramatic Presentation
   p. Hall of Fame Award for Outstanding Career Achievement
4. Vote for 5 choices or fewer in each category, in order of preference. If you feel no award should be given in a category, vote "No Award". If you feel unqualified to vote in a category, vote "Don't Know".
5. To vote for a category, give the name of the story, along with the title of the book or issue number.
6. For best cover, give the book title or issue number. For best dramatic presentation (e.g. movies, TV, etc.) give the name of the drama.
7. For continued stories (e.g. in the "Best Novel" category), give the story title and book title or issue number of only the first and last parts. Continued stories are eligible if any part is in a publication dated 1982.
8. For a copy of the results, send a SASE plus 30¢ with your ballot.
9. Balloting closes February 28, 1983.
10. Results will also be sent to the publishers of:
    DC Comics, Marvel Comics, Whitman Comics, Archie Comics, Harvey Comics, Charlton Comics, Warren Comics, Heavy Metal, Kitchen Sink Comics, Cerebus the Aardvark, Elfquest, Pacific Comics, First Kingdom, New Media/Irjax Comics, Eclipse Comics, Fantaco Comics, Capital Comics, Rip Off Press publications, Comics Journal, The Comic Reader, Comics Scene, Prevue, RBCC, The Buyer's Guide, Media Showcase, and other interested publications.
11. Send your ballot to: David Craven
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I DON'T HAVE A WIFE OR CHILD LIKE JIM, BUT MY MOM HERE NEEDS PLASTIC SURGERY!
AND I'M GOING TO NEED BRACES AS SOON AS I GET TEETH.
DAWK!
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